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LB 588

historically Nebraska people have paid taxes on that land and continue to pay that. But because Missouri feels like that that land is on the other side of the river they should in fact put a claim on it, they have been instructed by the Attorney General in Missouri to start collection of taxes on that land, and in fact they have sent out tax notices to those landowners who have that land over there. This makes a very difficult situation because if those people have to pay taxes on that land and they're paying tax in Nebraska, that means they're being taxed twice. It's very difficult for me to understand how somebody can all of a sudden, after 100 and some years, decide that they can in fact start to...action to collect taxes. If we do nothing, if we do nothing then obviously those people either have to pay taxes in both states, or hire their own legal counsel in order to...individually to go to fight the issue. It's my consideration that since the Attorney General from Missouri decided this was the issue that he thought they should...he should force in order to make a decision, that our Attorney General should in fact represent those people in these efforts, and protect them from being forced to pay taxes or hire their own attorney. So obviously this only affects a small amount of people down there, but even at that...even with that point, I think it's the responsibility of the state of Nebraska to defend our citizens, and that's basically what this bill does. I think basically it's a matter of principle and I think it's the right thing to do. And I think this bill should move forward and at least protect in case the eventuality it comes to that point that we should have...those landowners should have the protection of the state of Nebraska and not have to in fact defend themselves against something that they are drug into by another state. So, with that, I'd be willing to answer any questions. Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Vrtiska. Discussion on LB 588? Seeing none, Senator Vrtiska.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Only just to say that I hope that there are enough people here who are understanding what I'm trying to do and will in fact be willing to support this and the A bill that goes with it, that will in fact provide some extra funds for the Attorney General to hire a part-time person, I'll talk about that if this passes, and to be able to provide some funding in